

TOWN OF EGREMONT, MASSACHUSETTS
MEETING OF THE SELECT BOARD
MINUTES

Date: November 26, 2018

Time: 7:00pm

Place: Town Hall

Egremont

Present at the table were Chairman Turner, Vice-Chairman McGurn, Selectman Brazie.

Others in attendance: Jared Kelly, Ted Nappo(Berkshire Record), Marj Wexler, David Seligman, Louanne Harvey, Jen Brown, Peg Muskrat, Abigail McGee, Francine Groener, Sue Turner, Jeff Reynolds, Eileen Vining, Charlie and Ellen Proctor, Mark Moore(MassDOT), Wendy Linscott.

Pledge of allegiance was recited.

It was announced that the meeting is video and audio recorded.

MINUTES:

Minutes of the November 13 meeting were accepted with a minor correction. Minutes of the November 16 meeting were accepted as presented.

SCHEDULED ISSUES:

At 7:02pm the Tax Classification hearing was called to order. Jeff Reynolds, Regional Resources assessor consulting, presented the meeting with estimates on the FY 2019 tax rate and tax bills (copy attached). The estimated rate is \$9.57, down from \$9.62 with a small increase in values that may see the average tax bill rise a bit. The Board of Assessors, Sue Turner and Francine Groener were present, recommend a single tax rate. The Board voted unanimously in accordance with M.G.L., Ch. 40, Sec. 56, as amended, the percentage of local tax levy which will be borne by each class of real and personal property, relative to setting the Fiscal Year 2019 tax rates and set the Residential Factor at 1.0, with a corresponding CIP shift of 1.0, pending approval of the town's annual tax recap by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue. Hearing closed at 7:11pm.

TOWN OFFICIALS:

Jeff Lazarus noted that he has sent the Board members the draft Broadband Network RFP to review. He needs comments by Thursday.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Board unanimously approved the request of Tyler Race for unpaid leave of absence to January 1, 2019.

The Board unanimously accepted the resignations of Shawn Boyne and Brandon Yap from the Police Department. Police Chief Josephson will be invited to the December 11 meeting to discuss the department staffing.

The Board unanimously accepted the resignation of Carla Turner from the Agricultural Commission. The Board, with Chairman Turner, recusing himself, voted to appoint Darrell Turner to fill this vacancy.

The Board unanimously accepted the resignation of Mark Roggen from the Technology Committee.

The Board unanimously voted to hire Paul Sierau as a temporary, seasonal winter truck driver for the Highway Department.

The Board voted unanimously to give notice to the Police and Highway Unions that the board wishes to begin negotiations for both union contract renewals as soon as possible.

OLD BUSINESS:

A great deal of discussion ensued regarding the sidewalk/bike lane concepts presented by MassDOT for Route 23 in the south village. A citizens group that has formed recommends Concept 1, sidewalks/bike lanes on both sides, but all agreed that a smaller bike lane would be most appropriate. Mark Moore informed the meeting that there is a waiver process for allowing for narrower bike paths. The citizen's group asked if the Board would consider appointing a committee to help with review of this project. Concern was expressed by the Egremont Land Trust over the trees that the group planted along Main Street in the early 2000's. Concern was also expressed about the stretch of roadway beginning at the Spirit Shoppe extending up to the old Gaslight Store. The Board concurred with Concept 1 with some modifications. The 25% design public hearing will likely be in the fall of 2019.

The Board voted unanimously to cancel the December 11 Special Town Meeting. The Planning Board was unable to meet posting requirements for the public hearing for the Zoning amendment. The other articles are not of immediate concern.

FOLLOW UPS/UPDATES:

The contractor for the South Egremont School House foundation is taking a look at why there might be moisture in the crawl space. The Board awaits an agreement by the School Committee to remediate the lead paint. The district has informally said it would move the students in after the Christmas/New Years Holidays.

The Affordable Housing projects continues to move forward. The survey of the lot has been completed.

SELECTMEN'S ITEMS:

The Board will meet on December 11 and 18, and on January 8.

The Board voted unanimously to grant town employees Christmas Eve, December 24 off as the second Holiday day off.

Vice-Chairman McGurn asked about the meeting with Mount Washington to discuss the issue of 911 numbers and other things. Selectman Brazie thought it was being scheduled for Saturday, December 8.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20pm.

Mary Brazie,
Office Administrator

minutes.19/nov26

The recording of the minutes is on record at the Town Hall for 90 days. Anyone who wishes to may obtain a copy or listen to the recording at Town Hall. Attachments are on file at Town Hall.